

I should have writ-
ten before but for
finishing my book.
For a whole fortnight
I stirred out of the
house but once. I
only hope that I
shall be thought to
have done something
after all this fuss and
all the help I have had.

I add deep as you
told me in your note

To John Bruce

Your note (too long unan-
swered) gave me surprise & regret.
I was not at all prepared to expect
so sudden a removal, or indeed any
removal at all, and I very sincerely
grieve at the cause of it.

We shall all miss you ex-
ceedingly: today there is a Council
of the Shakespeare Society and the Man-
ager of Longfellow has promised to
preside: I only wish that you could
be there. How our various Societies
are to get on without you I hardly

know, because you have made yourself
so valuable to all of them. However
what must be shall be and I trust
to your being able to come among us
now and then for the next four or
five months, and by that time I hope
that the cause of your absence will
be removed, and that you will again
settle in or near London.

Mr Gwyer asked me some days
ago about the Leicester correspondence,
and I told him that it had been acci-
dentally somewhat delayed.

Truly Lord Leicester's "jesting play-
er Will," must have been Will Kempe,
who succeeded Taitton. Suppose it should
be Shakespeare, and I apprehend that
when first he joined the Company
at the Blackfriars Theatre, ^{about 1506} the mem-
bers of it were still called "the Earl of
Leicester's ^{1st} Players" as they had been in

1574 and 1575.

Lord Maybrooke presided at the last Council of the Camden Society. This, I dare say, and all the rest about W Steinman Steinman of "no later" celebrity, I dare say you have duly heard from our friend Thomas.

We want variety of Correspondents for our "Transactions of the Shakespeare Society" - So not forget us & in the country you will want something to occupy your time.

Vol I is finished, and I am every day expecting to receive my copies. When shall I send that for you? You must let me know. I dare say that I shall be well clapper-clawed but I am prepared for it.

Yours very sincerely

J. Payne Collier

Victoria Road
Kensington

13. Feb. 1844.

1844

13 Feb. 1844

J. P. Coller